

To: Montana Judicial Committee  
Re: Senate Bill 112: The Dylan Steigers Protection of Youth Athletes Act; Promoting Safety for Youth Athletes  
From: Patti Jo Lane, PT  
Representing the Montana Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association  
Date: February 1, 2013

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I have been involved in the Athletic Community for well over 25 years, serving as an Athletic Trainer as well as a Physical Therapist. I have worked in large schools in Montana as well in our rural communities. We in the medical community see a great need for such a bill. All too often we are returning Student Athletes to play without clear guidelines for them to return safely, placing them at great risk for immediate as well as cumulative injury over time. All too often throughout my career Student Athletes were returned to play without proper medical clearance after a head injury. The need to compete at times outweighed the need to be safe. Our job as Healthcare Providers is to support Public Safety, identify areas in which we are at risk and correct as needed, especially when it involves our youth.

Thank you for allowing me to speak in support of SB 112 with the amendment adding Physical Therapist. I am supporting the amendment adding Physical Therapist as a Healthcare Provider that can perform the necessary testing to determine the Student Athletes Ability to return to play. The core of our education is based off of Neurological and Physical Assessments of all of our patients. We frequently collaborate the treatment of our Student Athletes with other Healthcare providers in many communities throughout Montana, taking a multidisciplinary approach to their care. Our number one goal is ensuring the safe return to play after injury. We require our Student Athletes to demonstrate their functional ability to return to play regardless of the type of injury. I strongly support the addition of a Physical Therapist as a Healthcare Provider that can perform such evaluations.

I support this bill as currently written and amended

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



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